

SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source

Greetings!



The discussion has begun on how to make the very best use of the newest addition to the park system in Sandy Springs: Lost Corner Preserve. This 22-acre parcel located at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Brandon Mill Road was willed to the City of Sandy Springs by Peggy Miles, who lived on the property her entire life. The acquisition was facilitated through the Trust for Public Land. The bequest specifies the park must be used for passive purposes, which means no organized sports.

The property is gorgeous and mostly wooded. Two ancient trees grace the garden next to the cottage. The cottage itself is rather small, but it contains a tremendous fireplace, both built by Ms. Miles' father, who was involved in the construction of the Morgan Falls Dam.

The community has given ideas as to how the new park should be used. Quite a few ideas have already been suggested. For example, an urban garden has been suggested or a place for young children to play. Ms. Miles was very interested in native wildflowers, which leads to the possibility of expanding the plantings into some sort of botanical garden. The famous Tavern on the Green in Central Park in New York City brings up the idea of possibly having a small café or tea house in the old house, with outside seating. Another possibility is a meeting space for garden clubs and other small groups.

All of these possibilities will have to take into consideration the rather limited parking space. Possibly parking spots could be developed between existing trees, as was done in Callaway Gardens.

Sandy Springs is blessed with numerous great opportunities for hiking on trails. The John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve is the foremost one, with several miles for walkers. In addition, two National Recreation Area Parks are located in Sandy Springs with miles of scenic trails. One is at Island Ford, off Roberts Drive, with its beautiful riverfront trail. A new 1.6 mile trail in that area was blazed in the last year and now opens an additional 10 acres of wilderness to those who want to hike or walk. The Palisades Park off Indian Trail and Northside Drive is the other huge National Recreation Area Park, and it too offers miles of trails with fabulous views of the river, both from the bluffs and at its shores.

Unfortunately, usage of Big Trees remains low. Thus designating Lost Corner as just another walking area with more trails makes little sense. The development of Lost Corner needs to take into account usages that attract patrons and garners the highest potential for this wonderful legacy.

Sandy Springs residents are encouraged to give their input to the Lost Corner Advisory Committee. Watch for meeting times of the Committee on the Sandy Springs Web site at www.sandyspringsga.org.

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs

Safety Seat Event a Success



Sandy Springs Firefighters Joe Borrillo and Reginald McClendon inspect a car seat that will be fitted into a SUV at the car safety seat event.

Did you know that four out of every five child car seats are installed incorrectly? Did you know that one-third of children are riding in the wrong restraints for their age and size? Sandy Springs Fire Rescue reminded residents to be safe with their child car seats by offering a child car seat event at Target at The Prado on Friday, January 29, 2010. Parents brought their children out to ensure a proper car seat fit during the event.

The event was a culmination of a 32-hour training course presented by the Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute from the University of Georgia and was sponsored by the Governor's

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Roswell Road Bridge over I-285 May Be a Reality



The City of Sandy Springs and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) are working on an aggressive schedule to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety at the Roswell Road/I-285 interchange bridge. The project will include the construction of additional width on the northbound(east) side of the existing bridge.

This will allow for two, 11' wide, northbound and southbound travel lanes as well as two, full, 11' wide, dedicated left turn lanes onto the entrance ramps for I-285. The current bridge has five, 10' wide, travel lanes. Additional width to the westbound and eastbound on ramps for I-285 will be constructed to accommodate dual ramp meters and additional storage capacity. Short sections of concrete raised median are also proposed at both ends of the bridge to improve operational circulation.

GDOT is working the pre-construction activities with the City to reduce the normal time needed to get a project to construction. The design firm for the City, ARCADIS, is working through the complications of adding the width to the existing bridge and to optimize the plan for construction activities.

A Public Information Open House was held on the evening of Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at City Hall regarding the proposed concept plan. Written comments received were generally in support of the project and it is expected that the improvements will greatly increase the operation and safety of the interchange.

Construction could begin as early as this summer. The current estimated cost of the project is \$4 million and is being partially financed through a federal earmark awarded to the City for improvements to interchanges along I-285.

Sandy Springs' Water Conservation Program Gets CREATE-ive

The City of Sandy Springs Water Conservation Incentive program was selected as the winner of the 2009 ARC CREATE Community Award in the Environmental Sustainability category. Presented on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, at the Old Courthouse on the Square in Decatur, the award honors local governments that have made outstanding contributions to reduce their community's environmental footprint in any of the following areas: energy, water, green purchasing, facility or site design/green buildings, electronic stewardship, fleet and transportation and waste prevention/recycling.

The City of Sandy Springs City Council unanimously voted to pass the new water conservation permit incentive program in June 2009. The goal of the program is to value all water on a building site. The program is built on the belief that site planning and design should be based on the understanding that water is a valuable natural resource that should be used conservatively, cleaned and reused on-site.

"I am very pleased that the City of Sandy Springs has been honored for our ordinance and has been shown to be a leader in water conservation. We are providing incentives to builders when they incorporate water saving plumbing in construction," said Mayor Eva Galambos. "This goes way beyond low flow toilets—it is truly a way to address water shortages that must be avoided if the Atlanta area is to continue to grow."

The CREATE awards are sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission.



On February 17, 2010, the City of Sandy Springs was awarded one of six CREATE Community awards in the environmental sustainability category for its water conservation incentive program given by the Atlanta Regional Commission. The awards recognize local government leadership, excellence and innovation to achieve regional goals. Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos received the award from ARC's Executive Director Chick Krauter.

Axt Named Humanitarian Award Winner



Mayor Eva Galambos, Herman Cain and this year's Humanitarian Award Winner Carolyn Axt pause on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to honor both King and Axt for her contributions to society in King's memory. Cain was the speaker at this year's ceremony.

Sandy Springs resident, Carolyn Axt, has been named the 2010 recipient of the Humanitarian Award. This is the fourth time the City has given the award that embodies the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes an individual for his or her humanitarian contributions to society and philanthropic work. A volunteer committee made the selection.

After working for IBM in sales and support for large aerospace companies, Carolyn "retired" to raise her family and began her career as a volunteer. She began by

working with youth in her children's school. Carolyn served on the Board of Directors of the Ashford Dunwoody YMCA, the John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve, Heritage Sandy Springs and Sandy Springs Conservancy, and she began the Learn and Serve Program at North Springs High School.

Currently, in her role of Executive Director of Leadership Sandy Springs, she brings together business and community volunteers across the City of Sandy Springs. Recently, Carolyn is working to revitalize what is now called Sandy Springs Education Force to support students in public schools. She serves on the Education Committee of the Board of the Sandy Springs Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband, Bob, have three children and four grandchildren.

The event featured choral tributes, guest choirs and guest of honor and keynote speaker, Herman Cain. Cain has a radio show on WSB 750 AM, has served on numerous corporate boards, owned Godfather's Pizza and ran for Senate from the state of Georgia.

Be All About Sandy Springs



Here in the City of Sandy Springs, we urge you to have civic pride. There are many things you can do to be a proud resident of this City. Here are a few examples:

- If you reside or do business in the following Zip codes, 30350, 30342 and 30328, please use Sandy Springs as your mailing address.
- If you see litter or graffiti, please report it on our Web site, www.sandyspringsga.org.
- If you see a code enforcement violation, such as someone blowing leaves into the street, call the Citizen Response Center at 770-730-5600, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Make sure your address is visible for public safety officials: Business addresses should be: 6-12" in height, be above the door and be contrasting in color from the background. Residential addresses should be: A minimum of 3" in height and have a contrasting background.
- If you have an emergency, call our new, state of the art 9-1-1 center.

Crime Rates in Sandy Springs Fall

According to figures reported from the Uniform Crime Report (UCR,) Part 1 crime numbers in the City of Sandy Springs declined 5.09 percent in 2009.

"Sandy Springs Police officers live the mission 'To Prevent Crime and Enforce Law Through Problem-Solving Partnerships,'" said Sandy Springs Police Chief Terry Sult. "We strive to prevent crime and disorder from occurring; when we are unsuccessful, we aggressively enforce the law with high quality police officers in partnership with our residents. Our residents believe in us and we believe in them and that is what makes the difference!"

Other important trends in Sandy Springs over the last two years include: violent crime down 17.4 percent; property crime down 12.06 percent; and total part 1 crime down 12.41 percent. Over the past two years homicides have dropped 100 percent; rape has dropped 18 percent; aggravated assault fell eight percent; robbery down 24 percent; and theft down 19 percent.

Preliminary figures indicate that, as a whole, law enforcement agencies throughout the nation reported a decrease of 4.4 percent in the number of violent crimes for the first six months of 2009 when compared with figures reported for the same time in 2008. The violent crime category includes murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The number of property crimes in the US from January to June of 2009 decreased 6.1 percent when compared with data from the same time period in 2008. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.



Office on Highway Safety. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue had one Certified National Child Passenger Safety instructor assist with the training.

This community-wide outreach included students from: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Graco Children's Products Inc., Grady Healthcare System, Gwinnett County Police and Sheriff's Departments, Newell Rubbermaid, Sandy Springs Police Department and other community volunteers. If you missed this child car seat event, you may stop by any one of Sandy Springs' four fire stations and have a technician fit your seat into your car.

Guidelines-Infants

(From birth to at least age 1 and 20 pounds)

- Never put a rear-facing car seat in front of an active airbag.
- Keep track of your baby's weight and height.
- Use the car's safety belt or LATCH system to lock the car seat into the car.
- Put harness through the slots so they are even with or below the infant's shoulders. Be sure the harness is tight, so you can't pinch extra webbing at the shoulder.
- Adjust the chest clip to armpit level. Use your baby's car seat rear-facing to no more than 45 degrees, so the baby's head stays in contact with the seat and the baby's airway stay open.

Guidelines-Toddlers

(Older than age 1 and more than 20 pounds)

- Use forward facing car seat correctly in the back seat.
- Use the seat belt or LATCH to lock the car seat into car.
- Put harness through the slots so they are even with or above the child's shoulders. Some seats only have one forward facing harness slot, so check instructions.
- Use a top tether if your vehicle and car seat are equipped.

Guidelines-Boosters

(40 to 80 or 100 pounds, for most children, that will be between ages 8 and 12.)

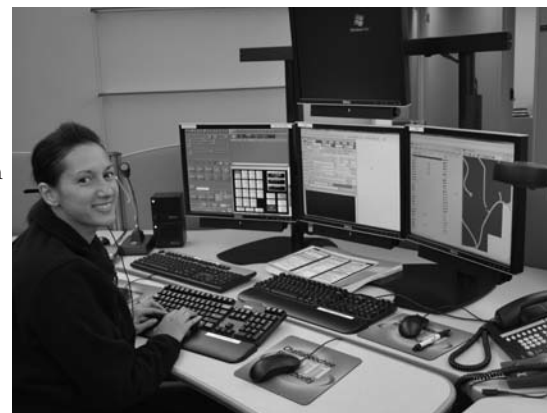
- Use in back seat correctly.
- A booster seat uses no harness. It uses the vehicle's lap and shoulder belts only. Be sure the safety belt is properly buckled.
- Never use the lap belt only.
- Never place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back. In a crash a child would not be protected.

If you are ever in doubt, visit www.safekidsgeorgia.org/ for more information.

Do You Know Where Your 911 Fees Are Going?

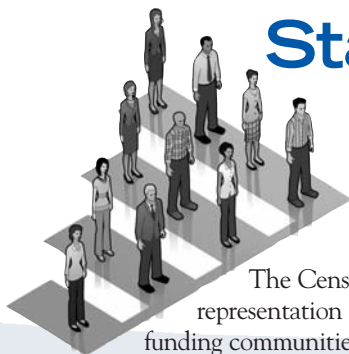
In September 2009, the City of Sandy Springs launched its new 911 center, the Chattahoochee River 911 Authority. The State of Georgia gives jurisdictions the ability to assess up to a \$1.50 fee per phone line (landline, mobile and VoIP) per month to assist with the funding of location-based technology to ensure that emergency responders are dispatched to the correct location. Prior to September 1, 2009, these fees were remitted to Fulton County, since they provided the 911 call answering and emergency dispatching services.

Now that your city has opened 911 operations, we are entitled to receive the 911 fees you already pay to help support its operation. While the majority of the fees from Sandy Springs phone lines were redirected to the City, we are aware of several that have not. We are asking that you check your telephone bill (October 2009 or later) to ensure that the fee is being sent to Sandy Springs and complete either the residential or business survey on our Web site to provide us with some brief information: www.sandyspringsga.org.



Now that the Chattahoochee River 911 Authority is operational, the City is entitled to receive the 911 fees you already pay on your phone bills to help support its operation. We are asking that you check your telephone bill (October 2009 or later) to ensure that the fee is being sent to Sandy Springs.

Stand Up, Be Counted



To achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The Census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive throughout the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments. For this funding allocation to be accomplished, the goal is to count everybody, count them only once and count them in the right place.

The 2010 Census will take place on April 1, 2010. To help ensure the nation's diverse population can answer the questionnaire, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be available. Additionally, questionnaires in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian will be available on request.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. It takes less than 10 minutes for the average household to complete. All responses are used for statistical purposes only and all are strictly confidential. For more information, visit the 2010 Census Web site, www.census.gov.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770.730.5600